

54 23
THE
ORACLE of AVIGNON:

Or. A new and true Account of all the
Great Actions and most remarkable Occurrences
Of the LIFE of the

P R E T E N D E R,

From his first ATTEMPTS in the World, down to the
Discovery of the late grand Conspiracy.

Collected and digested from Authentick MEMOIRS.

All deliver'd and express'd in the
WORDS of the Antient CLASSICKS;

No Writer since the *Augustan* Age having been found,
who had a Genius equal to the SUBJECT.

Being, A
COMICO-PROSAICO-POETICAL ESSAY

On the ACTIONS of this HERO.

By B----- H-----, his POET-LAUREAT.

Ag. Fy. protender.

In FRENCH and ENGLISH.

PART I. To be continued.

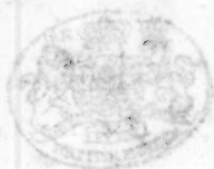
*Musa mihi causas memora, quo numine laeso,
Insignem pietate virum tot adire labores,
Impulerit.* Virg. *Æn.* lib. i.

L O N D O N:

Printed for J. Roberts, in Warwicklane, and sold by the
Booksellers of London and Westminster. 1723.

(Price Six-pence.)

April.



L
L
Eta
d'
17
Pr

Che
fo

L'ORACLE

D'AVIGNON.

Étant PREDICTIONS Merveilleuses
d'un Garçon de quinze ans (dans l'Année
1717.) à l'égard aux Evenements de la vie du
Prétendant, jusqu' au present.

Ἐν δὲ ράει καὶ ἑλεσσον. Hom.



A LONDRES:

Chez *J. Roberts*, auprès des Armes d'Ox-
ford, dans la Ruë de Warwick. 1723.



L' O R A C L E

D' AVIGNON, &c.

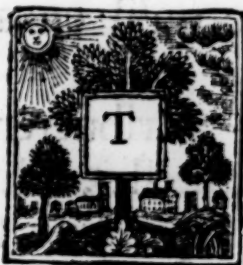


N écrit d'*Avignon*, qu'il y arriva une chole assez extraordinaire, au mois de *Janvier* de cette année 1717.

Jacobus Fatidicus, garçon de quinze ans, de bas Extraction, élevé dans un College des Jesuites, ayant eu jusque là la Memoire si foible qu'il ne put jamais appren-



THE
O R A C L E
O F
A V I G N O N, &c.



THEY write from *Avignon*, that in the Month of *January* 1717, something happen'd there, which, as it struck with Amazement all those that were Witnesses of it ; so, no doubt but 'twill have the same Effect on such as know it only by Tradition.

One *Jacobus Fatidicus*, a Lad of fifteen Years of Age, and of mean Extraction, was brought up in a College of Jesuits ; and till this time had so weak

apprendre une leçon ordinaire des poëtes, tomba au commencement de ce mois dans le chaud mal : Au plus fort de la Maladie, il commença tout d'un coup à ne plus parler qu'en vers tirés des meilleurs Poëtes Latins : Ce qu'il y eut de plus merveilleux, étoit qu'à toutes les demandes qu'on luy vouloit faire, soit touchant les choses présentes, soit touchant les passées, ou les futures, le Malade répondit avec justesse, par quelque beau passage de poésie Latine qu'on trouve dans les plus celebres auteurs, & l'expérience, ou l'événement, confirma regulierement ce qu'il en avoit dit.

Fort peu de personnes attribuerent cet effet à quelque cause naturelle ; plusieurs se dirent à l'oreille, que cela se faisoit par magic, d'autres voulurent, que le garçon étoit obsédé : Mais les Jesuites & la plus part du peuple, soutenoient que c'étoit un Miracle de la Sainte Vierge.

Comme tout le monde courût consulter ce nouvel Oracle, le *Chevalier de S. George,*

weak a Memory, that he was scarce able to learn a common School-Boy's Lesson by heart, when on a sudden he fell into a raging Fever, at the height of which Distemper he began immediately to speak every Thing in Verse: and what is still more surprizing, no Questions could be asked him, concerning Things past, present, or to come, but his Answers were made by some beautiful Passage of the most celebrated *Latin* Poets; and Experience, or the Event literally confirmed the Truth of whatever he delivered.

A Thing so uncommon was by some attributed to natural Causes. Many whisper'd about, as if they thought it an Effect of Magick! Whilst others look'd upon the Boy as possess'd! But the Jesuits, and greater part of the People, would have it nothing less than a Miracle of the Holy Virgin!

All the World came to consult this new Oracle, and among the rest, the
Chevalier

S. George, étant tourmenté depuis quelque tems par diverses pensées douteuses, qu'il n'osoit confier à personne, & dont pourtant il souhaitoit de tout son coeur quelque Eclaircissement, y alla un soir incognito.

Le malade étoit couché sur son lit, les yeux fermés comme un homme qui sommeille ; mais un frere laiique qui en avoit soin, assura que malgré cette posture, on n'avoit qu'à lui demander ce qu'on vouloit, & qu'il ne laisseroit pas d'y répondre. Notre Chevalier prit courage, & pour coup d'essai, il résolut de lui demander une chose, dont naturellement le Malade ne pouvoit avoir aucune connoissance, faisant voeu en lui-même, si le Profète écolier répondoit juste, de croire comme Articles de foi tout ce qu'il pourroit lui dire dans la suite.

Voicy l'entretien qu'il y eut entre eux.

Chevalier.

Chevalier de St. George (having for some time past been tormented with many perplexing Apprehensions, and terrifying Thoughts, which he dared not to communicate to any Body, and yet wished (if possible) to have cleared up to him,) repaired hither one Night *In-cognito*.

Our sick Person, at this time, lay on his Bed, with Eyes clos'd as one in a Doze ; but a Lay-Brother, to whose Care he was intrusted, assured the *Chevalier*, that notwithstanding this posture, he might ask him any Questions, and he would certainly give him an Answer : Upon this our *Chevalier* took Heart, and by Way of Trial, resolved to ask him a Thing, which, humanely speaking, he could have no Knowledge of ; at the same time vowing to himself, that, if the young Prophet answer'd him right this first Question, he would believe whatever he should afterwards say, as firmly as he did his Articles of Faith.

Hear then the Intercourse between 'em.

B

Chevalier.

Chevalier. Dis moi, mon enfant, ce que je pensois, il y a deux ans & quelques mois, lorsque le Roi George, sans aucune obstacle, arriva en Angleterre ?

Ja. Fatidicus. Anna soror ! quæ me suspensum insomnia terrent ?

Quis novus hic nostris successit sedibus hospes ?

Quem sese ore ferens ! quem forti pectore & armis !
Credo equidem, nec vana fides, genus esse deorum.

Virg. Æn. l. 4.

Chev. Parbleu ! voilà une grande vérité ! mais ne faurois tu un peu m'expliquer ce qu'il arrivera à l'avenir ?

Ja. Fa. Expediam dictis, & te tua fata docebo.
Ib. l. 4.

Chev. J'ay couru risque deux fois de perir sur la mer, dans le dessein de faire descente en Ecosse : ne ferois je pas par hazard plus heureux sur la terre ?

Ja. Fa. — O magnis pelagi defuncte periclis !
Sed terræ graviora manent. Ib. l. 4.

Chev. Cependant j'ay encore un dessein dans la tête, qui ne manquera pas, à ce que j'espère, de faire changer de face mes affaires en Angleterre ?

Ja. Fa.

Chevalier. Tell me, Child, what have been my Thoughts for these two Years and some Months past, since King George, without any Opposition, ascended the *British Throne*?

Jac. Fatidicus. *Dear Sister Anna, what new Dreams afright*

*My lab'ring Soul? What Visions of the Night
Disturb my quiet? And distract my Breast
With strange Ideas of our Trojan Guest!
Whose Worth, whose Actions, and majestick Air,
A Man descended from the Gods declare.*

Chev. Zounds! this is Truth to an Ace! but prithee canst thou satisfy my Curiosity a little, with relation to *Futurity*?

Ja. Fa. *Thy Fate, as yet unknown, I will reveal.*

Chev. I have twice hazarded my Life on the Seas, intending a descent on *Scotland*: Shall I not be more successful by Land?

Ja. Fa. *Escap'd the Dangers of the watry Reign,
Yet more and greater Ills by Land remain.*

Chev. But I have still a Design in my Head, which, 'tis almost impossible should fail; and by it, I hope to change the Face of Affairs in *England*?

Ja. Fa. *Non semper feriet quodcunque minabitur
arcus.* Hor. de A. Poet.

Chev. Oh ! pour cette affaire la, elle
est trop bien concertée pour que le coup
puisse manquer ?

Ja. Fa. *O curas hominum & quantum est in re-
bus inane !* Pers. Sat. 1.

Chev. J' avoue que s' il n'y avoit que
les *Highlanders*, les *Fox-hunters*, & les
Jacobites, qui s'en melassent, je n'en au-
rois pas trop bonne opinion moi-meme :
Mais je mets ma plus grande confiance
dans un secours étranger que j'auray ?

Ja. Fa. *Spem si quam accitis Ætolum posuistis
in armis,*
Ponite———Virg. Æn. l. 11.

Chev. Le Roi de *Suede* n'entrepren-
dra donc rien pour moi ?

Ja. Fa. ——*Utilius bellum putat esse minari,
Quam gerere.*——Ovid. Met. l. 7.

Chev. l'espere pourtant de recevoir
des bonnes nouvelles la desûs par le
chemin d'Ecosse & d'Angleterre ?

Ja. Fa. *Legati responsa ferunt, nihil omnibus
actum*
*Tantorum impensis operum; nihil dona nec aurum,
Nec magnas valuisse preces*——Virg. Æn. l. 11.

Chev.

Ja. Fa. *The Arrow, tho' 'tis level'd right,
Does yet not always hit the White.*

Chev. Puh ! this Affair is too well
concerted to miss ?

Ja. Fa. ———— *How vain.*

Are all the Actions, and the Cares of Man !

Chev. True. And were none but the
Highlanders, Fox-hunters, and Jacobites
engaged in my Interests, I confess I
should have but a poor Opinion of the
Affair my self ; but my greatest Hopes
are grounded on the Assistance I expect
from a Foreign Power ?

Ja. Fa. *What Hopes you have in Foreign Arms,
lay down ;*

Your Hopes must centre in your selves alone.

Chev. Think you then the King of
Sweden will attempt nothing in my Fa-
vour ?

Ja. Fa. ———— *He thinks it better far,
To make a Bluster, than engage in War.*

Chev. But I am in great Hopes of
very good News on that Head, from
the Quarter of *Scotland and England* ?

Ja. Fa. *The Legates from the Ætolian Prince return,
Sad News they bring, that after all the Cost,
And Care employ'd, their Embassy is lost :
That Diomedes refus'd his Aid in War,
Unmov'd by Presents, and as Deaf to Pray'r.* Chev.

Chev. Dis moi la pensée du Czaar de ce dessein là ?

Ja. Fa. *Quaecunque est fortuna hodie quam quisque secut sperem,*
Tros Rutilusve fuat, nullo discrimine habebo.

Ib. l. 10.

Chev. Mais le sieur *Ereskine* étant Cousin-germain de comte de *Marr*, ne manquera pas d'attirer le Czaar dans mes intérêts ?

Ja. Fa. — *Sera ope vincere fata*
Nititur, & medicas exercet inaniter artes.

Ovid. Met. l. 2.

Chev. Pour revenir au Roi de *Suede* ; je ne saurois m'imaginer qu'il abandonnera l'Affaire : il n'étoit déjà que trop en colère contre les *Hannoveriens* ; & moi & mes amis, nous n'avons rien négligé pour l'irriter encore plus ?

Ja. Fa. *Ergo ignem, cujus scintillas ipse dedisti,*
Flagrantem late & rapientem cuncta videbis,
Nec tibi parceretur misero, trepidumque magistrum,
In cavea magno fremitu leo tollet alumnus.

Juv. Sat. 15.

Chev. Explique moi, si tu peus, la situation de l'Esprit de mes amis en Angleterre, dans l'Attente ou ils sont, de voir réussir le dessein ?

Ja. Fa. Stat

Chev. Prithee, tell me, what thinks the Czar of this Design ?

Ja. Fa. *Each to his proper Fortune stand or fall,
Equal and unconcern'd I look on all :*

*Rutulians, Trojans, are the same to me,
And both shall draw the Lots, their Fates decree.*

Chev. But surely Dr. *Ereskine*, being Cousin-German to the Earl of *Mar*, will not fail to secure the Czar to my Interest ?

Ja. Fa. *The mighty Pow'r of Herbs is try'd in
vain,
And what is once decreed, Fate can't undo again.*

Chev. But to return to the King of *Sweden* ; I cannot believe, he will let this Affair drop : For he's already pretty much incens'd against the *Hanoverians* ; and neither I, nor my Friends have let slip the least Opportunity of heightening his Resentment ?

Ja. Fa. *Therefore that Fire, thou vainly think'st
thou ha'st
Kindled, to lay whole Towns and Countries waste ;
Like a young Lion, shall exert its Power,
And first lay hold on Thee, its dastard Governour.*

Chev. If thou canst, prithee let me know in what Posture the Minds of my Friends in *England* are, upon the Expectation of this Affair's succeeding ?

Ja. Fa. *The*

Ja. Fa. *Stat pecus omne metu mutum, mussant
que juventa*

Quis pecori imperitet. Virg. *Æn.* l. 12.

Chev. En quoi consistent les plus ardens souhaits des bons Jacobites ?

Ja. Fa. *Non pacem petimus, superi, date gentibus iras !*

Nunc urbes excite feras : Conjuret in arma

Mundus : Massagetæ Scythicus non alliget Ister :

Fundat ab extremo flavos Aquilone Suevos

Albis, & indomitum Rheni caput. Lucan. l. 11.

Chev. Mais que diront mes amis, si la Conspiration ne réussit point ?

Ja. Fa. *Quo deus, & quo dura vocat fortuna,
sequamur.* Virg. *Æn.* l. 12.

Chev. Il y a pourtant des braves gens qui prennent mon parti, & qui suivent ma destinée : Que dis-tu du duc d'Ormonde ?

Ja. Fa. — *Fortis in armis*

*Cæsareis Labienus erat ; nunc transfuga vilis,
Cum duce prælato, terras atque æquora lustrat.*

Lucan. l. 5.

Chev. Et de mylord Bolingbroke ?

Ja. Fa. *Ven-*

Ja. Fa. *Mate stands the Herd, the Heifers too intent,*

*With secret Moo's their inward Terrors vent :
The Issue wait, which Victor they shall bear,
And who shall be the Lord to rule the lusty Year.*

Chev. What Tendency have the most fervent Wishes of good Jacobites ?

Ja. Fa. *No Peace, ye Gods ! But War is our desire :*

*Let the whole World at once in Arms conspire :
Let furious Nations whet their pointed Rage,
And bent on Vengeance each, let each engage :
Let the Massagetæ wild Fury guide,
And break the Chain of Scythian Ister's Tide :
Let Elbe and Rhine's impetuous Torrents pour
Upon us barb'rous Swarms from Northern Shore.*

Chev. But what will my Friends say, if this deep-lay'd Plot should miss of Success ?

Ja. Fa. ——— *We must go
The Way which Heaven, and our hard Fortunes show.*

Chev. Well said ! There are many brave Souls in my Interest, that follow my Destiny : What think'st thou of his Grace of Ormond ?

Ja. Fa. *Once Labienus did himself behave
In Cæsar's Interest both firm and brave :*

*But now, a Renegade, to foreign Shore
Follows a Leader he despis'd before.*

Chev. And of good Lord Bolingbroke ?

C

Ja. Fa. For

Ja. Fa. *Vendidit Hic auro patriam.*

Virg. *Æn.* l. 6.

Chev. Et du reste de ma cour ?

Ja. Fa. *O patribus plebes ! O digni consule patres !* Claud. in *Eutrop.* l. 2.

Chev. Dis moi, comment le Roi George sera reçu en Angleterre, après son retour d'*Hannovre* ?

Ja. Fa. — *Ut sol, qui tectus aquosis
Nubibus ante fuit, victisque è nubibus exit.*

Ovid. *Met.* l. 5.

Chev. Comment se conduirat-il à l'égard de la nouvelle Conspiration ?

Ja. Fa. — *Ut rupes, vastum quæ prodit in aquor,
Obvia ventorum furijs, expositaque ponto ;
Vim cunctam atque minas perfert calique marisque
Ipsa immota* — Virg. *Æn.* l. 10.

Chev. Il y a eu des rois de tant de races en Angleterre ; est ce que les *Hannoveriens* y regneront long tems ?

Ja. Fa. *His*

Ja. Fa. — *For foreign Gold,
Like a right Traytor, He his Country sold.*

Chev. And of the rest of my Courtiers
and Adherents ?

Ja. Fa. *Like Commons, and like Lords ; like
Master too !
Thus like to like, they make a special Crew !*

Chev. Prithee, Sweet-heart ; how
will King George be received in *England*,
at his Return from *Hanover* ?

Ja. Fa. *He, like the Sun by Clouds obscur'd a
while,
Yielding but glim'rings to our languid Isle ;
Dispels those Vapours that hung low'ring o're,
And shines with greater Glory than before.*

Chev. How will he behave with re-
gard to this new Conspiracy ?

Ja. Fa. *He, like a solid Rock, by Seas inclos'd,
To raging Winds, and roaring Waves oppos'd ;
From his high Summit looking down, disdains
Their empty Menace, and unmov'd remains.*

Chev. *England* has been govern'd by
Kings of several Races : Pray, will the
Hanoverian reign there long ?

Ja. Fa. *His ego nec metas rerum, nec tempora pono :*

Imperium sine fine dedi. Virg. *Æn.* l. 1. 1.

Chev. Mais je ne saurois croire que les Anglois puissent souffrir long tems un Prince qui de sa naissance a regné en souverain ; & dont les vieux sùjets n'ont été que les esclaves ?

Ja. Fa. *Fallitur, egregio quisquis sub principe credit*

Servitium : Nunquam libertas gratior extat, Quam sub rege pio. Claud. de Laud. Stilic. l. 3.

Chev. Il n' y a donc gueres d'apparence que je monte jamais sur le trone de mon pere ?

Ja. Fa. *Este precor memores, quâ sitis stirpe creati.* Ovid. *Met.* l. 3.

Chev. Tu as raison ; les peres sont souvent Equivoques : mais ma mere ?

Ja. Fa. — *Sed E^s hæc de plebe, suoque Æqua viro fuerat.* Ib. l. 4.

Chev. Tu

*Ja. Fa. To them no Bounds of Empire I assign ;
Nor Term of Years to their immortal Line.*

Chev. But certainly, I can never believe, that the English, who are a free People, can long submit to a Prince, who from his Birth has been train'd up to Absolute Power, and whose Subjects in Germany are little better than Slaves ?

*Ja. Fa. No Slavery under Rule of pious Kings ;
But chief Protection lies beneath their Wings :
And Liberty's enjoy'd with double Gust
By Subjects, when their Prince is Good and Just.*

Chev. Is there then no Likelihood of my coming to enjoy the Crown of my Father ?

Ja. Fa. Remember from what Stè'm ye are deriv'd.

Chev. Right ! Fathers (I own) are often Equivocal : But my Mother ?

*Ja. Fa. She was deriv'd from a Plebeian House :
But a Match equal to her mean-born Spouse.*

Chev. Would

Chev. Tu veux donc que je quitte toute ma Pretension à la Couronne ?

Ja. Fa. *Abjicito potius, quam quo perferre juberis
Clitellas, ferus impingas, Asineque paternum
Cognomen vertas in risum & fabula fias.*

Hor. Epist. 13. l. 1.

Chev. De la maniere que tu m'en parles, il faut donc que le roi George vienne à bout des tous les ennemis que je lui ay excité, & que pour moi, il n'y ait plus de feureté sur la terre ?

Ja. Fa. — *Hinc secula discant
Indomitum nihil esse pio, tutumve nocenti.*

Claud. de 4. conf. Honor.

Chev. En quel païs donc me refugier ?

Ja. Fa. *Per varios casus, per tot discrimina
rerum,
Tendimus in Latium.* *Virg. Æn. l. 1.*

Chev. Fort bien ! Apparemment le roi de Sicile me recevra avec mes amis, & nous fournira tout le secours dont nous
avons

Chev. Would you then have me quit
all Pretensions to the Crown of *Eng-*
land ?

Ja. Fa. *Rather cast down thy Burthen, than with*
Shame,

(By punishing rashly in) thy Father's Name
Should by this Means be brought upon the Stage,
And Thou become the Scoff of every Age.

Chev. How now ! why at your rate
of talking, King *George* will triumph
over all the Enemies I have rais'd against
him—And as for poor me, I'm to ex-
pect no Succour nor Protection on this
habitable Globe ?

Ja. Fa. —Hence, *nothing is so hard, we learn,*
But may surmounted be by pious Pow'r ;
Whilst Impious find no Refuge that's secure.

Chev. Where is it then that I must
fly ?

Ja. Fa. *Thro' various Hazards and Events we*
move
To Latium. —

Chev. Well said ! 'Tis likely then,
the King of *Sicily* may receive me, and
my Followers ; and furnish us with
such

avons besoin : Dis moi ce qu'il pense de nous ?

Ja. Fa. — *Invito numine Trões
Italiam petière : Luant peccata, nec illos
Juveris auxilio.* Virg. *Æn.* l. 10.

Chev. Le pape fera donc nôtre dernière ressource : Que veus tu que je lui dise en arrivant à Rome ?

Ja. Fa. *Nunc ad te & tua, sancte Pater, consulta revertor :*
Si nullam nostris ultra spem ponis in armis :
Si tam deserti sumus, & semel agmine verso,
Funditus occidimus; neq; habet fortuna regressum;
Oremus pacem, & dextras tendamus inermes.
Virg. *Æn.* 11.

Chev. Quels seront mes Exploits en Italie pendant cette chevalerie errante ?

Ja. Fa. — *Canibus lepores, canibus venabere damas.* Virg. *Georg.* l. 3.

Chev. Bon ! C'est la guerre ! Mais les Affaires de Cabinet ?

Ja. Fa. *Ædi-*

such Succours, as we shall have occasion for: Therefore, prithee tell me, What is his Opinion of us?

Ja. Fa. — *With Fates averse
The Trojans steer to Italy their course:
Bear They the Punishment of broken Law,
And thy Protection from their Aid withdraw.*

Chev. Why then, his Holiness must be my last Refuge: How would you advise me to address him, if I should go to Rome?

Ja. Fa. Now, Holy Father, we most humbly sue,
Both for Assistance, and your Council too:
If in our Arms thus early you disside,
And think our Fortune is already try'd:
If one Defeat hath us reduc'd so low,
As we dare never more to face our Foe:
Then, let us pray for Peace; 'tis time to treat
Prostrate, as Vassals at the Victor's Feet.

Chev. Pray, what great Feats shall I atchieve during this my Knight-Errantry in Italy?

Ja. Fa. — *Thou shalt chase with Hounds
The timid Hares, and Does about the Grounds.*

Chev. Brave! This is War! But for Affairs of the Cabinet?

D

Ja. Fa. With

*Ja. Fa. Ædificare casas, plostello adjungere mures:
Ludere par impar : equitare in arundine longâ.*

Hor. Sat. 3. l. 2.

Le *Chevalier* n'avoit plus envie de demander rien, il s'en alla en fort mauvaise humeur, faire les preparatifs pour son Voyage d'*Italie* : Le pauvre malade mourût la même nuit, au grand regret de ceux qui vouloient encore le consulter.



F I N I S.



Ja. Fa. *With Cards build Houses : Toke young
Mice in Carrs :*

At Push-pin play : Curvet a Hobby-horse.

Our *Chevalier*, having received such untoward Answers, went away in the Dumps, not caring to venture on any further Questions ; but out of hand made Preparations for his Voyage to *Italy* : The sick young Prophet departed this Life that very Night, to the great Regret of Crowds of People, who, full of Expectation of knowing their future Fortunes, were all disappointed, and oblig'd to return without obtaining a Satisfaction of their Curiosities.

F I N I S.





s will
nd of
and a
Four-

Funda-
to the
of the
cies nor
Fart-in-
iversity
Request
rt-shire.
ncefs of

